

Claims:

1 1. A cordless telephone, comprising:
 2 a base unit, including a paging mechanism; and
 3 a handset, including an alerting mechanism responsive to the paging mechanism,
 4 wherein at least one of the base unit and the handset includes a page adjusting
 5 mechanism to affect an alerting signal output from the alerting mechanism based on a
 6 condition.

1 2. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
 2 affects the alerting signal based on a received signal strength indication.

1 3. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
 2 affects the alerting signal based on a signal delay measurement

1 4. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
 2 affects the alerting signal based on an error correction measurement.

1 5. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
 2 affects the alerting signal to have a duration based on an estimate of the distance between
 3 the base unit and the handset.

1 6. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
 2 affects the alerting signal to have a volume based on an estimate of the distance between
 3 the base unit and the handset.

1 7. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
 2 affects the alerting signal to have a particular tonal quality based on an estimate of the
 3 distance between the base unit and the handset.

1 8. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
2 affects the alerting signal based on an estimate of the distance between the base unit and
3 the handset, and wherein the estimate is based on at least one measure related to a signal
4 from the base unit to the handset, and at least one measure related to a signal from the
5 handset to the base unit.

1 9. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
2 affects the alerting signal based on an estimate of the distance between the base unit and
3 the handset, and wherein the estimate is based on a plurality of signals between the base
4 unit and the handset.

1 10. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the adjusting mechanism
2 affects the alerting signal based on an ambient noise measurement.

1 11. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the
2 adjusting mechanism is in the handset, and wherein the handset further comprises:

3 a microphone; and

4 a receiver,

5 and wherein the adjusting mechanism is adapted to receive a measure of the
6 ambient noise incident on the microphone from the receiver and to affect the alerting
7 signal based on the measure.

1 12. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 11, wherein the adjusting mechanism
2 affects the alerting signal to have a volume a predetermined amount higher than the
3 ambient noise.

1 13. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 11, wherein the adjusting mechanism
2 affects the alerting signal to have a tonal quality different from the ambient noise.

1 14. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the alerting signal includes a
2 visual signal that is output based on an estimate of the distance between the base unit and
3 the handset.

1 15. A cordless telephone, comprising:
2 a base unit, including a paging mechanism; and
3 a handset, including an alerting mechanism responsive to the paging mechanism,
4 wherein the base unit provides an indication related to a distance between the base
5 unit and the handset.

1 16. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 15, wherein the indication is a visual
2 indication provided when the handset is estimated to be more than a threshold distance
3 from the base unit.

1 17. A cordless telephone, comprising:
2 a base unit, including a paging mechanism; and
3 a handset, including an alerting mechanism responsive to the paging mechanism,
4 wherein the paging mechanism is adapted for user control.

1 18. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 17, wherein the user control enables a
2 user to adjust the signal output by the alerting mechanism.

1 19. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 18, wherein the user control enables a
2 user to adjust the signal output by the alerting mechanism to progressively increase in
3 volume.

1 20. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 19, wherein the handset enables the user
2 to activate a user input unit to terminate the signal output by the alerting mechanism.

- 1 21. A method of affecting an alerting signal output by an alerting mechanism of a
2 cordless telephone handset, comprising the steps of:
3 sensing a condition, and
4 affecting the alerting signal based on the sensed condition.
- 1 22. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the sensed condition is a received signal
2 strength indication.
- 1 23. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the sensed condition is a signal delay
2 measurement.
- 1 24. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the sensed condition is an error
2 correction measurement.
- 1 25. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the sensed condition is an ambient noise
2 measurement.
- 1 26. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the sensed condition is an estimate of
2 the distance between a base unit and the handset, and wherein the step of affecting the
3 alerting signal comprises affecting the duration of the alerting signal based on an estimate
4 of the distance between the base unit and the handset.
- 1 27. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the sensed condition is an estimate of
2 the distance between a base unit and the handset, and wherein the step of affecting the
3 alerting signal comprises affecting the volume of the alerting signal based on an estimate
4 of the distance between the base unit and the handset.
- 1 28. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the sensed condition is an estimate of
2 the distance between a base unit and the handset, and wherein the step of affecting the

